

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

1.-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for managing user information associated with a user community, comprising:

specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;

forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users; and

granting administrative privileges to an administrator for managing the administrative domain.

8. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

10. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises constructing a query rule to define users within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

11. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the administrative domain.

12. (original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising forming an administrative sub-domain from the administrative domain.

13. (original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the forming of the administrative sub-domain further comprises specifying at least one arbitrary group of users.

14. (original) The method according to claim 12, further comprising granting administrative privileges for managing the administrative sub-domain.

15. (original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges for the administrative sub-domain.

16. (original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges for the administrative domain.

17. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for providing delegated administration of a user community, comprising:

specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;
forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;
granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain; and
delegating the granted administrative privileges from the administrator to another administrator for the administrative domain.

18. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

19. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

20. (original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises constructing a query rule to define the users within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

21. (original) The method according to claim 20, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one arbitrary group of users

22. (original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges to additional administrators for the administrative domain.

23. (original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising managing information associated with the administrative domain according to the delegated administrative privileges, wherein the managing of the information comprises dynamically determining in real-time whether the information is a member in the at least one arbitrary group of users.

24. (previously presented) A computer implemented method for providing delegated administration of a user community with a client system, comprising:
specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;
forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;
granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain,
forming an administrative sub-domain from the administrative domain; and
delegating the granted administrative privileges from the administrator to another administrator for the administrative sub-domain.

25. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

26. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises using combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

27.-49. (canceled).

50. (currently amended) A computer implemented system including a user community administration tool for providing delegated administration of a user community, comprising:
means for specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;
means for forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users:

means for granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain; and

means for delegating the granted administrative privileges from the administrator to another administrator for the administrative domain.

51. (original) The tool according to claim 50, wherein the specifying means uses attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for specifying the at least one arbitrary group of users.

52. (original) The tool according to claim 50, wherein the specifying means uses combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for specifying the at least one arbitrary group of users.

53. (original) The tool according to claim 50, wherein the specifying means specifies the at least one arbitrary group of users from a query rule.

54. (original) The tool according to claim 53, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

55. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium storing computer instructions_which when executed in a computer system performs a process comprising the steps of:

specifying the user community into at least one arbitrary group of users;
forming an administrative domain from the at least one arbitrary group of users;
granting administrative privileges to an administrator for the administrative domain; and
delegating the granted administrative privileges from the administrator to another administrator for the administrative domain.

56. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for using attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

57. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for using combinations of possible attribute values associated with each of the users in the user community as criteria for forming the at least one arbitrary group of users.

58. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the specifying of the user community into the at least one arbitrary group of users comprises instructions for constructing a query rule to define the users within the at least one arbitrary group of users.

59. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 58, wherein user data that satisfies the query rule dynamically becomes a managed user within the at least one arbitrary group of users

60. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, further comprising instructions for managing information associated with the administrative domain according to the delegated administrative privileges.

61. (original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 55, further comprising delegating the granted administrative privileges to additional administrators for the administrative domain.

62-69. (canceled).